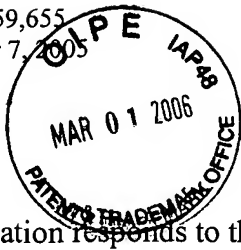
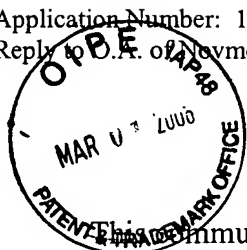


AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 2. This sheet, which includes Figs. 1 and 2, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 1 and 2. In Figure 2, previously omitted element 46 has been added.

Attachments: Replacement Sheet

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes



REMARKS

This communication responds to the non-final Office Action of November 7, 2005.

Claims 1-39 are pending. Applicant appreciates Examiner's allowance of claims 13-39, and indication of allowability of claims 2-7 and 12. Claims 1 and 8-11 were rejected.

In this communication, claims 1, 3, 4, and 9 are amended. Claim 1 has been amended to recite "a plurality of manifold barriers carried by said plenum, wherein said manifold barriers cover a portion of said inner periphery adjacent to said fluid source nozzle," claims 3 and 4 have been amended to clarify claim dependency, and claim 9 has been amended to recite "and wherein said fluid source supplies an inert gas through said head."

Claims 2 and 12 are canceled.

The specification has been amended to include U.S. patent 6,942,650.

The drawings have been amended to include previously omitted element 46.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 8 through 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Zamierowski (U.S. Patent No. 6,071,267).

Applicant respectfully traverses the § 102(e) rejection. However, in view of the amendments set forth above, applicant believes the application is now in a condition for allowance. This is because claim 1 incorporates the limitations of claim 2, which the Examiner indicated as allowable but was objected to because of its dependence on claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is allowable. In addition, claim 8 incorporates the limitations of claim 12, which the Examiner indicated as allowable but was objected to because of its dependence on claim 8. Therefore, claim 8 is allowable.

Claims 3-7 and 9-11 depend from their respective independent claims 1 and 8, and recite additional novel features of the present invention. Therefore, dependent claims 3-7 and 9-11 are distinguishable over the prior art for at least the reasons set forth above.

Conclusion

This paper does not generate any additional fees. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees and or credit any overpayments associated with this paper to Deposit Account No. 04-1420.

This application now stands in allowable form and reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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July 27, 2006

By:

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Title: Smoke Evacuation System
Inventor Name: Barry M. Thompson, Jr.
Dkt. No.: 6956.07

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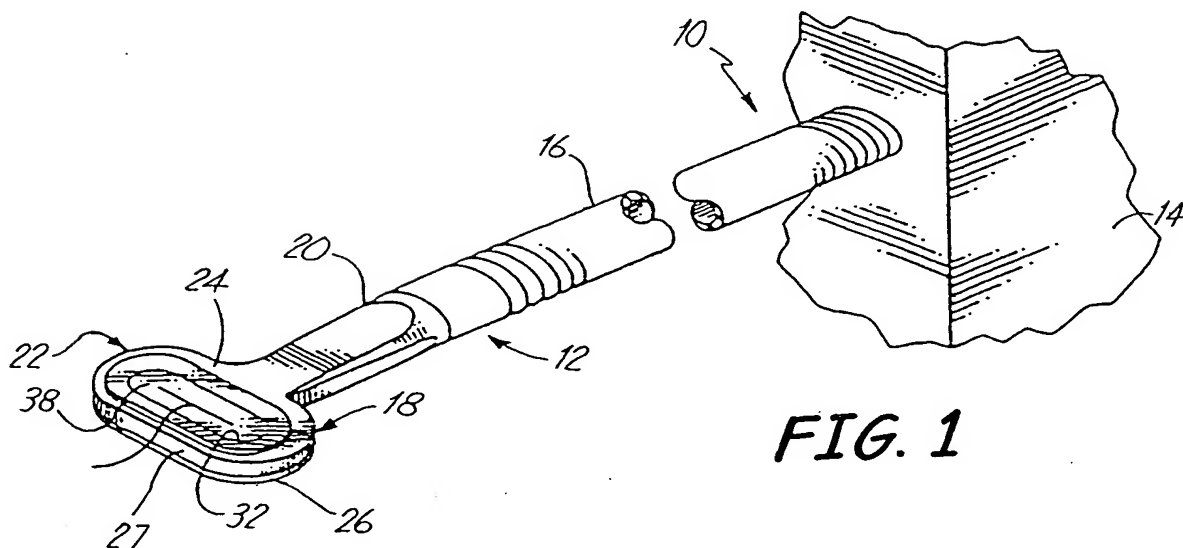


FIG. 1

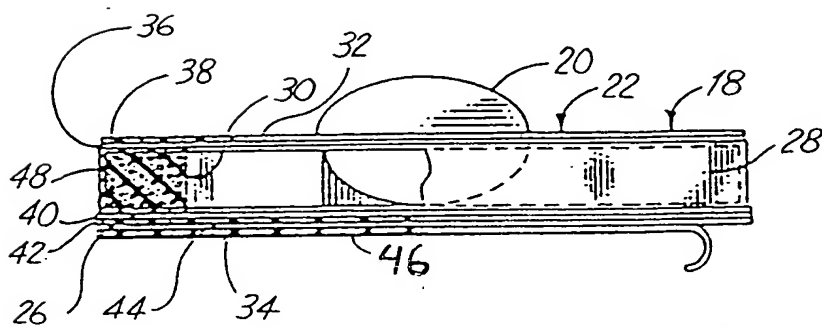


FIG. 2